AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for encapsulating a bus interface selecting request within a common transport message that facilitates usage with bus interface constructs, comprising:

receiving a common transport message by a local host bus adapter;

modifying the common transport message in the local host bus adapter to contain a bus message passing request; and

transmitting the modified common transport message from the local host bus adapter to a remote host bus adapter,

wherein the modified common transport message is transmitted from the local host bus adapter to the remote host bus adapter via an external Ethernet link, the external Ethernet link directly, communicatively connecting a local software driver of the local host bus adapter to a remote software driver of the remote host bus adapter.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the common transport message is compliant with a Fibre Channel General Service Common Transport Protocol.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the common transport message is compliant with a Fibre Channel General Services Common Transport version 3 (FC-GS-3) Protocol.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the common transport message is modifiable to identify a bus type.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus type is SAS.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus type is Fibre Channel (FC).

7. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus type is Infiniband.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus type is Internet Small Computer System Interface (iSCSI).

9. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus message passing request is a Message Passing Technology request.

10-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a remote host bus adapter, comprising:

acquiring a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) message request;

encapsulating the PCI message request in a Fibre Channel (FC) packet; and

transmitting the encapsulated FC packet to a remote host bus adapter;

wherein the encapsulated FC packet is transmitted to the remote host bus adapter via an external Ethernet link directly, communicatively connecting a local software driver of a local host bus adapter with a remote software driver of the remote host bus adapter.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the PCI message request is a Fusion Message Passing Technology request.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein transmission of the encapsulated FC packet occurs over an FC link.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the encapsulated FC packet is used by the local host bus adapter to configure and update the remote host bus adapter.

22. (New) A system for remote host bus adapter management, comprising:

a local host bus adapter including a local software driver; and

a remote host bus adapter including a remote software driver,

wherein the local software driver and the remote software driver are communicatively coupled via a direct, external Ethernet link, the Ethernet link providing for management of the remote host bus adapter via the Ethernet link.

23. (New) The system of Claim 22, wherein the local host bus adapter receives a bus interface message request from a local software application.

24. (New) The system of Claim 23, wherein the local software driver receives the bus interface message request from the local software application.

25. (New) The system of Claim 23, wherein the bus interface message request is a Message Passing Technology (MPT) request contained within a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) packet.

26. (New) The system of Claim 24, wherein the local software driver forwards the bus interface message request via the external Ethernet link to the remote software driver.